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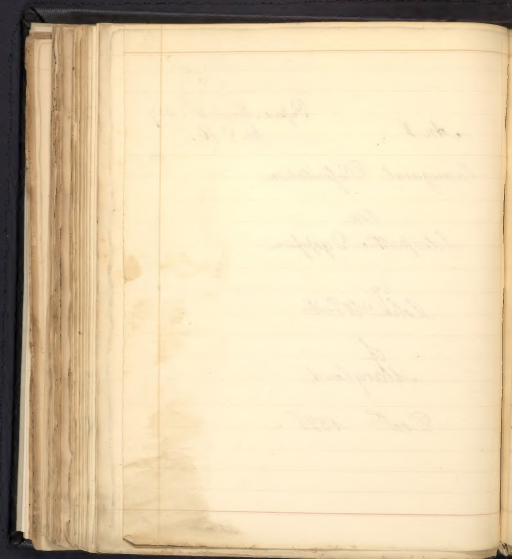
Inaugural Dissertation

On
Idiopathic Dyspepsia

by
John Wood

of
Maryland

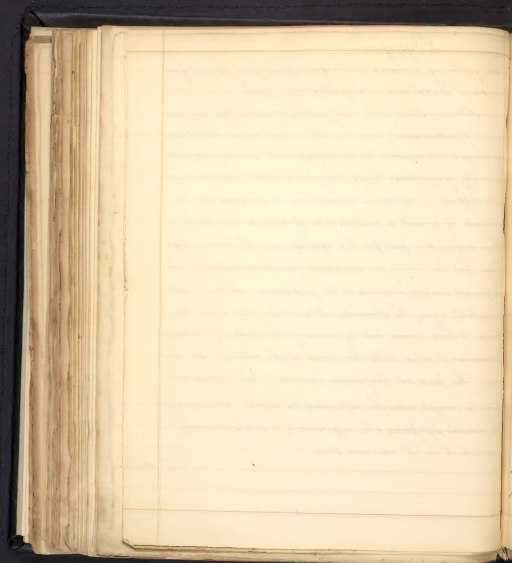
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Dyspepsia

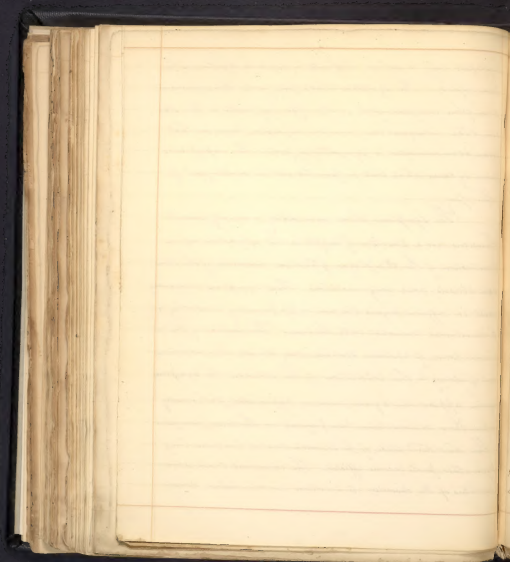
The following remarks are confined principally to that form which is denominated *Idiopathica Dyspepsia*.

However striking the diagnostic symptoms of this disease in its commencement may be, there is not one on the catalogue of diseases accompanied in its progress with so many & so great a variety of symptoms; though easy in the forming stage, however, and suffered to march on unobtruded, its advances will be marked by so great a complication of diseases depending for their origin & in part for their existence on the primary affection, that but a very few complaints present so many embarrassments & disappointments to the practitioner. Seated in that important organ, the Stomach, it does not long remain confined to that viscus, but by reason of the strong Sympathetic connections it holds with the viscera of the abdomen, the Thorax, the head &c. they become involved & the system at large is brought under the influence of the disease; hence arise the various symptoms & the difficulties to a successful management of it in its advanced stage.

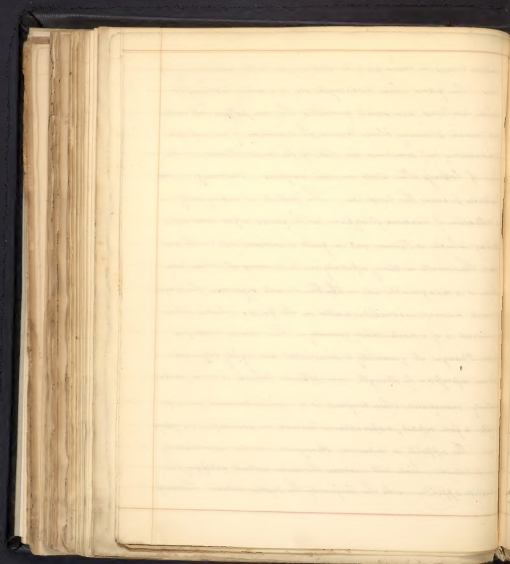


Dyspepsia may be defined, difficult or depraved digestion as the term implies. The symptoms which first make their appearance arise from indigested food or other offending matter in the stomach & the subsequent ones from an impression made on that organ & communicated to sympathizing parts. The impression is made by causes which will be pointed out in another part of this essay.

The symptoms which immediately or directly present themselves are a sensation of weight in the epigastric region constriction of the Oesophagus flatulency distention of the stomach stools, acid soily excretions. These symptoms however may exist in different degrees & be more or less transitory according to circumstances connected with the case. The patient by the regular course of abstinence & exercise may obviate their recurrence but yielding to the solicitations of the stomach the symptoms again appear in a great measure aggravated, particularly when their returns have been frequent or the cause powerful. This disordered state of the stomach does not continue long before other parts become affected. The intestinal canal soon participates of the disorder, its secretions are diminished, consti-

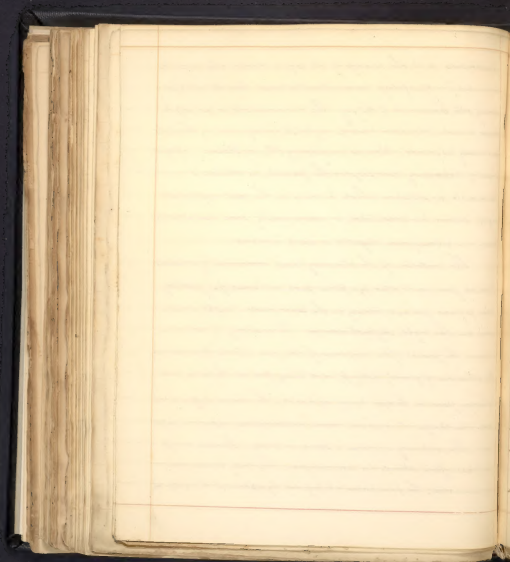


pation comes on these fails to add vigour to the prevailing symptoms. The faeces when discharged, are of a colour inclining to white, are hard & in small quantities they are passed not without much straining & leave behind the sensation of an imperfect evacuation, but sometimes this state of the bowels alternates with that of looseness & the stools are dark & copious - Costiveness in most instances succeeds this condition. The patient not unfrequently has a collection of tenacious glairy fluid in the fauces a few hours after eating which is thrown out in great abundance, but for the most part the mouth is clammy especially in the morning at which time there is a disagreeable taste in the throat & the breath offensive. The tongue furrowed & some mucous matter in the fauces which when removed is of a dark colour generally - The urine undergoes some change its quantity is diminished & is highly coloured. Some depression of strength now attends which is more particularly manifested when confined to a warm or crowded room or after a full repast, respiration is hurried in some degree & is oppressed. The appetite is impaired, changeable & acts importunately for substances which will increase the disease without satisfying the morbid appetite. As the languor of the system returns, the mind



participates in it, the kenning of its eyes is clouded & the former dis-
tinguished for cheerfulness becomes absent to mind. Loss all relish for
society & the amusements of the gay. The one remarkable for sadness be-
comes pensive & considers himself neglected & disregarded by those who
are really his friends. Dreams are alarming & the nightman is a frequent
visitor, depending now, since on the patient, his attention is con-
verted to his situation which he views in the most unfavorable
light, believes his constitution is undermined by some inevitable dis-
ease & as a consequence depression is greatly increased.

The irritation of the alimentary Canal occasioned by its period-
ic contents gives rise to other symptoms such as Cardialgia gastrody-
nia pyrosis pain or burning in the lower bowels bright disten-
tion in the right Hypochondrium. The sensibility to cold is in-
creased. The patient often complains of cold feet & back. Sometimes has
the sensation of general shivering, cold heavy feet in the head, cold
stinging pain in the eyes, heavy eyelids &c. The voice suffers a con-
siderable change, it is gutta course & articulation imperfect, and
more than ordinary caution is needed to speak, he mutters. Shivers across
the chest often attends his very dressing, the body becomes more or
less emaciated, the face pale & a few other symptoms at this stage of



I suppose I must recognize in the right arm (on a page to the right)
 the tongue in some instances I observe a thin yellow coating on some
 of the internal surface of the pharynx, but no real coating, although
 very rough & papillary of the throat are present, these form a
 mass of thin, white, membranous cells on the sides, bottom & pharynx
 & the base of the larynx & the trachea & a squamous membrane
 covers some of the mucous membrane & is a characteristic mark of the pro-
 gress of the disease the lips are a tendency to be dry, are in the state
 of the red of the right side & the left of the right & the lower
 and the last symptom is sometimes present in the earlier stage
 of the disease the tongue is covered in a white coating
 no tracheal membrane which is a sign of the disease has been of the
 trachea, but a secretion of mucus is present in the trachea, the
 trachea is covered with a thin, white, membranous cells on the sides
 bottom & pharynx & the base of the larynx & the trachea
 surface is much aggravated by the mucus. The trachea is covered in a
 white coating of mucus & the trachea is covered in a white coating
 has some degree of swelling but rarely, rarely is present. The trachea is
 much covered with mucus, mucus more than usual secretion, is present
 and a thin, white, membranous cells on the sides, bottom & pharynx
 & the base of the larynx & the trachea & a squamous membrane
 covers some of the mucous membrane & is a characteristic mark of the pro-
 gress of the disease the lips are a tendency to be dry, are in the state
 of the red of the right side & the left of the right & the lower



gradual malposition & disease either from accident or inflammation or
accidental circumstances may give rise to disease even the sym-
ptoms of disease however may exist for a long or short time, & some a
change of structure takes place, and a new disease is intro-
duced in the same constantly without a cessation of its existence
until the place is healed & restored which may have a termination
with the primary disorder alternately aggravating each other or the
secondary disease by its violence & the changes produced may exist inde-
pendently of the primary one & so last issues can remain or in
other words cured by the former.

[illegible]



to men, ^{not} have any necessary connection to state in the stomach
stomach remains non-digesting as the disorder of blood vessels is caused
as the causes of Dyspepsia

they have generally an directed into remote or predisposing
secretory, and no advantage appears to arise from such a division
of the causes which are considered predisposing, or even ap-
plied in a general ^{degree} the real exciting causes However though they
may be applied differently they act in different ways to produce
indigestion Their effects are just as uniform as the same They excite
activity secretion in the nerves of the stomach intestinal canal
and the energy of the nerves of the stomach is always necessary, with
secretion of the gastric juice in a state suitable to effect the peculiar
changes in food requisite to perfect digestion Indigestion supposes this ne-
cessary influence is less a tendency to allow in a greater or less degree
the secretion of the gastric juice to diminish In numerous
cases of the stomach

The causes are grief anger intense studies sedentary life in
young persons on the surface inducing the cutaneous function, sitting
continued in the feet the use of alcohol in excess either in the in-
gestion will be much act by imparting subtle, the stimulant, and



of the stomach is the irregular & even, & different & not, & distinct. These
in most instances are with encouragement to the disease either in their
quantity, quality or the state in which they are taken. Substances
of digestion taken in so large a quantity as the stomach in the whole and
presence in state of relaxation or debility, which disqualifies it for the
regular performance of its office. Innumerable cases of the food will not be
digested and other effects of over stimulation are more the primary symptoms
already pointed out. Food is perfectly masticated & received into the stom-
ach, though not so abundantly with or followed by similar results.
The substance will most be action of mastication & peristalsis is
enough into action. Storing of the contents in the stomach & the process of
digestion. The matter remaining in the stomach is an indication of
of stimulation. It appears that digestion goes on in the stomach & in the
latter stage. The nerves which are communicated through them is
the secretory & muscular system of the stomach, more conscious being
established. Small quantities of food are not readily & easily acted on in the
secretory & muscular system seem to be under the control of the nerves
which surround the stomach in any case. In the communication the same
to them. The results are altered secretion of gastric juice & loss of healthy
movement or tone in the muscular system & conditions altogether unfavorable



effect the necessary changes in food for its passage into the Duodenum. The contents of the stomach are longer retained than in health. After passing from this organ is tedious atonement, by its tone, impacted in the Duodenum. A circumstance that hinders its progress is the existence of a so called stasis, a vegetable diet of low quality, cold, catarrhs, articles of diet, either warm or cold, or very cold, indigestible acids may be introduced, food swallowed should very hot or very cold. catarrhs in large quantities are highly pernicious. Opium & other narcotics in cases of acute stasis are injurious. The primary effect of the last mentioned articles as causes of this disease is stimulant, increasing action. Their secondary effect is sedative or late or diminution of tone. Costiveness is set down among the causes as a very frequent accompaniment, but in all probability it should be a consequence inasmuch among the effects of Indigestion & evacuation are not wanting instances of persons who have gone eight & ten days even much longer without evacuation of the bowels, yet digestion went on uninterrupted. Co-operating with the osmotic causes, producing debility of the alimentary canal, it may in the generality of cases hasten the development of dyspeptic symptoms. When the bowels are regular & gut & intestinal disorders impede the stomach may bring on obstinate constipation. When this is the effect it only supports and increases the strength of the disease; but this is not



uniformly the medicinal effect of emaciation is then made sometimes
incurable by the bowels yet the evacuations are neither plentiful nor satis-
fying; costiveness is very apt to follow this state. & full meal after meal
dyspepsia is a very frequent cause of dyspepsia in this case the stomach
turning to peristalsis of the general languor

The causes make their impression as above pointed out. This impression appears
to exert an nervous irritation which kept alive by the power of frequent
repulsion of causes, little is communicated to other parts by the contact or
sympathy existing between them. The symptoms arising from the dyspep-
sias & affections are similar to those given out by idiopathic disease of
the part. The appearance of an established disease may continue for
considerable time before an actual alteration of structure of the organ
takes place but the length of time will depend very much on the pre-
vious state of the organ, secondarily affected. Medicines restore health
in the stomach, still remove the symptoms, & the secondary disease but
do not remove or employ to remove the disorder, the irritation remains and
effects a change of structure. That this will be the result the experiments
of Boerhaave & others have ascertained, except

A very remarkable circumstance often occurs in this complaint namely
the secondary disease causes the primary, the former acts as a counter-









Stomachs of persons labouring under Dyspepsia, is the morbid & it is present
distention of the various parts of this organ & the consequent derangement of the latter an-
impulse, & the liver has a stronger affinity for soda than for either of the
other alkalies it should be used in preference to them. Soda may be administered
in the form of effluvia of tartaric acid in solution or in the form of the sodium
powder or a weak solution of the bicarbonate may be given.

A more violent symptom than the one mentioned is gastralgia which is dis-
tinguished by intense pain in the stomach & derangement of that organ with other
symptoms of indigestion. For its removal limonade with magnesia or heat
water should be prescribed. Water sweetened as hot as it can be borne to the amount
of a pound or more will sometimes give ease. Much is to be expected from hot
applications over the region of the stomach & they should not be neglected when
means fail. Aether Sulph. of opium & blisters must be resorted to. If persons in
very full may be used to advantage as a much larger quantity etc. may be taken in the
day form without producing nausea than in any other state. The preparation of honey
sugar elect is a valuable corrective & acidity thus gently gained much resolution as
a prevention of the above symptoms as long as a remedy to them in their milder
forms. Pyrosis is another distressing symptom characterized by pain & burn-
ing sensation in the stomach extending along the Oesophagus & depends on escape of
a volatile spiritous fluid from the mouth &c. It is supposed to originate from



[illegible]

What has been said is in relation to the first stage of Dyspepsia viz the patient contributes no assistance. There remains here all others will prove unavailing. Every course in the use of any other course must be delicately guarded against too much uterine current is feared whilst it is inadvisable to retard the action some. Goodrich looks very anxious from the dyspepsia that it causes



[illegible]



and at meals itself. It is best then in small quantities only, as little soup
or beer may be taken directly after dinner and some relaxation must be put on their
uses they must be prohibited, if any signs of an inflammatory diathesis be present.
For a general drink, pure water is the best, but if the patient has been accustomed
a little wine or the brandy water is allowable. Cold meats may best be dispensed
with, but meat must be served white, in cases of extreme debility when cal-
culi of urine than there comes along with some dysuria. The warm bath will do
much good and relaxation. The surface of the parts leads to the stomach. Exercise
is all important in the treatment of this disease. That the patient may derive
great effects from it it should be taken by walking, or on horseback, or some
other way, as recommended to lead through the air, it should be advised sometimes
to go to some distant spring, but walking is certainly the most
effective. It is best to be continued, as far as possible, during the
but the best time is before and after the various injections, exercise should
not be taken directly after dinner, nor should it at any time be stopped as for
as to produce gallop, frictions should be practiced once or twice every day.
Much will depend on clothing of a suitable kind. A cotton shirt should be worn
at all times, all the summer of flannel during autumn winter. Most of
the spring the other part of the body must be as comfortable. A severe change
of weather, as the skin of the feet is a very frequent cause of the disease, they must



or produce some use by evacuation. When there occasional accumulation about
any the stockings with Eucalypt paper or a piece of balm in the hollow of the shoes
is more pleasant to the soles of the feet. By the plugging treatment the disease which
originated in the alimentary canal may be removed. Likewise the symptoms of con-
tamination by indistinctly communicated to distant parts. If by the progress one of
the disease is involved the treatment must in a great measure be changed or
be different from that already commenced. Thus the introduction to the even
can stay the form as the primary secondary symptoms exist in connection. These
order must be devoted to the alimentary canal as the part disease is in sympathy
but when the secondary disease takes an independent stand it is then without the
force of treatment for dyspepsia it must be managed by those means which would
be indicated by a primary independent disease with due provision to pre-
serve the healthy action of the stomach in as great a degree as possible.

The case of cases of ill along sympathy with the organ primarily affected
is generally just, more to suffer in the organ. When Salivary gland and vesicles
is proof that the disease is spreading or extending to different organs. Besides the
symptoms which have been mentioned in the first disease is implicated, there is con-
stantly a febrile disposition which is most marked in the afternoon and a heavy
tongue is very often slowly developed. This state may be connected with various
degrees of disease the degree is a slight or important treatment of the case or



pre disposition in the organ to take increased action, if circumstances do
not forbid. The latter should be the first means resorted to effect a cure, but
when in doubt, opium & bleeding will be safe. This may be accomplished by bleed-
ing & purgation & cupping. The usual purgatives should be prescribed, & purging
may be effected by Opium & castor Magnesia & oil of sweet or by Salts & purgatives. The
quantity & mode of administration is regulated by the condition of the system & the
effects produced. It is repeated as symptoms may require. After action is
substant or much relaxed a large blister should be formed over the region of the
liver. If the derangement is not removed by this plan Calomel may be given in minute
doses in the quantity of two or three grains every three or four hours until twelve or
fifteen grains have accumulated in the system. Then it is to be passed off by a
gentle laxative if it has not operated sufficiently, or the blue pill may be used
in the same manner, given to the amount of seven or ten grains, then worked off
by some mild aperient. This is used in the manner with a view to dissolve
abscesses, and to restore the liver to its natural & healthy action, & the liver
after it has been opened several times. The laxatives may be discontinued or
only be repeated so far as is necessary to let the mercury or even ^{mercur} _{salts} settle.
If extreme debility will not admit of the employment of these
drugs in any shape the Mucous acids & extract of Starchy material is used as
a substitute, & sometimes the stomach becomes so much of paper & the secretions



needs highly excited, viz. mercury should be used so that it cannot be continued until the wished for effect is attained. In such a case it will be better to discontinue the use of this medicine & to apply it by friction over externally the external of the abdomen & with an eye to the state of the bowels never permitting them to become constipated nor to be too often put in motion. The Stomach is not to be neglected at this time. Correction of acids must be directed as the case may require. All other symptoms of a disordered system directly related to the Stomach should be patiently removed & plenty of proper food must be given as will increase the tone of this organ without exciting noxious action.

The Pyelitis and its origin the duodenum are often implicated. The former is known by extreme tenderness in that region. It is to be treated by topical bleeding or general if necessary, by purgatives & by blistering. The latter is known to be concerned by the symptoms next to be considered as well as the right Hypochondrium (this is to be distinguished from the enlargement of the liver by the swelling or enlargement not proceeding directly from under the cartilages of the ribs of that side) by sometimes some degree of pain & sometimes about the umbilicus cordis, they arise from the contents of this intestine becoming impacted & unduly retained. To remove them Lenna-lea is most to be relied on. This should have been spoken of before this as it more properly.



belongs to the treatment of the primary stage.

Purpuration. This generally yields to the remedies in the first stage of disease even if it has from some cause continued. There is more strength of pulse connected with it. The remedies to be resorted to are a discussion per os & recto so soon as excitement is sufficiently subdued. purgatives should be avoided in the stomach for the restoration of its healthy action.

Brain. According to the conclusion of this disease the brain is deeply increased. It shows the sympathy between it & the stomach &c. that almost as soon as functional derangement takes place in the latter some excitement is experienced in the former, but in most cases it is removed by the appropriate remedies for dyspepsia. Sometimes it may happen that the physician has not been successful with his remedial agents or has not been consulted while the disturbing sensations referred to the head are the result of disease elsewhere. Hence the curative plan is to adopt general bleeding if the disease is much excited. Local bleeding is always & always indicated. Stimuli may be resorted to great advantage. The bowels should be freely evacuated. This means not evacuating or only partially so, a stool must be formed in the rectum. In the next of the above remedies resorted according to circumstances. The diet is to be unexciting; necessary exercise over the lungs. Exercise is essential. The condition of the stomach must not be neglected. When it has been



been mentioned may be adopted in the several indications

When the lungs are involved. The treatment consists in sustaining arterial action or excitement first. This is to be effected by general bleeding if the inflammation & strength of the patient will justify it, by local bleeding by blistering & a diet properly regulated. Should these means recourse must be had to an alterative course of mercury to accomplish a cure. The blue pill should be given every other evening to the amount of five or seven grains to be worked off in the morning by some gentle laxative. This course is to be pursued until all unfavourable symptoms have disappeared. Should doubt be so great as not to admit this medicine to be used so freely it may be administered in very minute quantities before co-operated - as a degree of mercurial action higher than a very gentle ptyalism might be of serious injury to the patient. Much caution is necessary in its use. The blue pill should in this case be purged off every other day by injections & occasionally by laxatives if demanded or allowable. Too much vigilance over the effects of this medicine can not now be exercised, so soon as there is the appearance of the slightest action on the salivary glands it must be discontinued & on its disappearance to be resumed & attended in this manner until its full effects have been gained. The extract of Sassafras may be prescribed, & at times Stemsia tra-

[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is organized into several paragraphs across the page.]

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Cochin infusion of gentian or orange peel, These articles are required not only
on account of the general feelings of the patient, but of the debilitated
state of his stomach which yet prevails although increased by
scurvy or any other cause will add much to the violence & duration of the
symptomatic disease. Having by these means relieved the disorder from the
lungs a course of such medicines must be continued as will improve the gen-
eral health.

